



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105**

**OCT 28 2014**

Via email to: [biltoftc@yahoo.com](mailto:biltoftc@yahoo.com) and upload to FOIAOnline

Christopher Biltoft  
14-5001 Hoolai Road  
Pahoa, HI 96778

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-R9-2014-010294, re: Puna Geothermal Venture

Dear Mr. Biltoft:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 10, 2014 made via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) FOIAonline service concerning the Puna Geothermal Venture facility located near Pahoa, HI. The scope of your request was clarified and narrowed first in a telephone conversation between yourself and Ms. Rebekah Reynolds of EPA Region 9's Office of Regional Counsel on September 10, 2014 and a subsequent email exchange between yourself and Mr. Jeremy Johnstone of my staff on September 18 and 21, 2014.

As clarified in the telephone conversation and emails, you are requesting all correspondence between EPA and the Hawaii Department of Health and between EPA and Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) related to EPA's most recent inspection of the PGV facility. However, since PGV has claimed as confidential business information (CBI) portions of its correspondence with EPA and EPA's inspection report, you have agreed that the documents PGV has claimed as CBI are not part of your aforementioned FOIA request provided you are given a description of such CBI documents. The documents that have been claimed as CBI are certain documents that PGV provided to EPA in response to EPA's request for information leading up to and followings its inspection of the PGV facility.

Documents responsive to your request are available to view on EPA's FOIA online system. Note that certain documents available to view have been redacted because they contain information that PGV has claimed as CBI. In addition, the following documents, or portions thereof, have been determined to be exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA and have been either redacted or withheld in its entirety as described below:

1. Email from Sheila Jones to Rebekah Reynolds, Dated June 13, 2014, redacted for personal privacy concerns (Exemption 6);
2. Email from Sheila Jones to Rebekah Reynolds, Dated August 14, 2014, redacted for personal privacy concerns (Exemption 6);

3. Emails between Rebekah Reynolds and Emily Schilling, Dated August 20 and 21, 2014, redacted for law enforcement concerns (Exemption 7(a));
4. Document "Ormat – Puna Geothermal Venture Hazard Assessment", June 2010, 17 pages - specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act) (Exemption 3), withheld in its entirety; and
5. Document "Ormat – Puna Geothermal Venture, Expansion Project Hazard Assessment", October 2010, 27 pages - exempted from disclosure by statute (Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act) (Exemption 3), withheld in its entirety.

You may appeal this partial denial to the National Freedom of Information Officer, U.S. EPA, FOIA and Privacy Branch, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T), Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only), FAX: (202) 566-2147, E-mail: [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov). Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20004. Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30 calendar day limit. The appeal may include as much or as little related information as you wish, as long as it clearly identifies the determination being appealed and includes the assigned FOIA Request Identification Number (RIN): EPA-R9-2014-010294. For quickest possible handling, the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Please contact Mr. Jeremy Johnstone at either (415) 972-3499 or [johnstone.jeremy@epa.gov](mailto:johnstone.jeremy@epa.gov), should you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Enrique Manzanilla  
Director  
Superfund Division

Enclosures (via upload to FOIAOnline)